

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:23 pm on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray, and Dot Stillinger. Absent George Crimmins, Matt Palmer, Don Travisano and Township Committee Liaison K. Swartz.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2015 and January 2016 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12, 2016.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the April 7, 2015 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:55-8:14) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Reviewed completed action, points and soon to be completed actions for Sustainable Jersey checklist, due June 2015.

Marilyn Murray motioned to approve the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) update policy and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### Township of Chatham – Natural Resource Inventory Update Policy

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission created the Chatham Township Environmental Resource Inventory in 1974 and updated it in 1999 and in 2013.

On November 3, 2014, the Environmental Resource Inventory (NRI) was adopted into the Chatham Township Master Plan by the Chatham Township Planning Board.

Future updates of the NRI will be conducted as follows:

- \*The NRI will be updated at the same time that the Chatham Township Master Plan is updated.

- \*The Chatham Township Environmental Commission will update the NRI

- \*If funds are available, from a grant or from the Chatham Township municipal budget, a planner-consultant will be part of the NRI update process

- \*The Chatham Township Environmental Commission will present the updated NRI to the Chatham Township Planning Board for inclusion in the Chatham Township Master Plan as part of the regular Master Plan update

- \*The NRI will be taken into consideration when update the Master Plan and in land use decisions in Chatham Twp.

#### GIRALDA RIBBON CUTTING SATURDAY JUNE 6 AT 10:00 AM

Joe Basralian, Open Space Committee Chair spoke to the Environmental Commission regarding the ribbon cutting of Giralda Property. This will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015, National Trails Day. Mr. Basralian asked the EC to help with publicity. He also spoke of the immediate improvements that will take place, including new signage. He proposed to establish a subcommittee which would establish a 3 year property plan based utilizing a budget and other resources. The township owns the property and Morris County Park Commission will maintain it. Establish new signage. There will be no sports fields; no swimming. There are bike/walking/hiking trails, among other elements.

#### ANNUAL OPEN SPACE WORKDAY

- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:30AM to 12:30PM – Next year need to coordinate with school calendar. Check out the pictures on township website.

- Over 30 people attended, 35 bags of trash removed, woodchips spread on trail to first bridge, invasives pruned.

THANKS to all who worked so hard on the project!!

## PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Township Committee approved an ordinance to prohibit unregulated pipelines carrying hazardous liquids. Madison recently passed a similar ordinance.
- Pipeline page on Chatham Township website at <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/pipeline/index.html>.

## TREE PROJECT

(26) Trees at SBS. Frank Esposito spoke with Joe Dunn. When the tree project began, the agreement for storing left over trees expired as of April 30, 2015; otherwise the trees would then be turned over to SBS. Mr. Dunn will work with EC. Although, if the trees are not planted soon, they will not be able to transport and will be too large to plant. Frank will look further into this.

## APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 35 Susan Drive, Block 20, Lot 17. Application to Board of Adjustment for steep slopes variances. Erosion and storm water control problems with the two homes recently built on Susan Drive; downslope neighbors' problems with erosion and excess water. Site visit was Saturday, May 2. Steve Carroll motioned to approve memo to BOA and Marilyn Murray 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.
- Golden River Homes, LLC, 11 Sunset Drive, Block 61 lot 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down toward Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20, 2014 was approved by CTEC. Application was continued before the Board of Adjustment.
- CLOSED - 35 Rose Terrace, Block 93 Lot 5. Minor Subdivision w/variances. Proposing to subdivide a half-acre lot in the R-3 (half-acre) zone into two quarter-acre lots. Site visit was on Saturday April 4. Memo from EC was presented to Planning Board. Planning Board approved 5/4/15.
- CLOSED - Verizon Wireless, Block 48.14 Lot 110 (near the site of the old gazebo on Southern Blvd.) 3-17-15. Application for LOI. They want to put communication equipment on the PSE&G tower. That is actually a sensitive area containing wetlands and a brisk storm water tributary to Black Brook so a comment letter to the NJDEP is in order. Letter to DEP approved and sent.

## REPORTS

- Planning Board  
D. Trivisano, Planning Board liaison.
  - Rose Terrace and Verizon applications were approved.
- Township Committee and Board of Health – No report.  
K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.
- Open Space Committee  
Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.
  - Report on OSC meeting of April 28, Giralda Property ribbon cutting, Saturday, June 6, 10 am.
  - Possible acquisition by Township of 3 parcels along the river currently owned by the Passaic River Coalition.
- Communications Committee  
F. Esposito, Chair.
  - Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.
- Recycling Committee  
F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray.  
Weekly recycling pickup is still a concern. Tanglewood needs some type of covering/protection because of contamination in paper recycling. Contaminated recycling cost more money in the end.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito.  
F. Esposito, Chair. Eco Film: Promised Land  
*The film "Promised Land" starring Matt Damon will be shown at the Library of the Chatham's, May 7, 7:30 pm.*
- Conservation Easement Subcommittee  
D. Stillinger and M. Murray.
  - CTEC wants to consider developing a plan for monitoring and recording conservation easements. This is a project for the fall.

## NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. Note that the Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county. And this just in - Roundup is once again considered a carcinogen by the FDA.
- Invasive Species Subcommittee
  - New Jersey has an invasive species strike force ([www.njisst.org](http://www.njisst.org)) which is mapping invasive species and looking for volunteers.
- Updated Environmental Commission enabling ordinance
  - Review the draft of the proposed updated ordinance. The current Township environmental commission ordinance was adopted in 1968 immediately after the State of New Jersey first passed a law enabling environmental commissions. The State subsequently refined its statute. The proposed updated Chatham Township ordinance conforms to current State law, includes the ANJEC recommendation to remove the provision that ECs can acquire property, includes a couple of changes found in the ordinances of other towns, and alters language to be gender-neutral ("he" to "he or she"). G. Crimmins.
- Wells in the Township
  - Online information from the NJDEP.
  - New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.
  - Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
  - Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.
  - Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Trails on the Giralda property?
  - Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcsd.org/](http://www.mcsd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
  - Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses (riding, not hunting). Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Swamp/what\\_we\\_do/conservation.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.html).

## RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January, 2015. Letter to PSE&G urging denial of permission to use their ROW for the proposed Pilgrim pipeline.
- February, 2015. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning The Farm at Green Village suggesting conditions on the approval to better protect wetlands.
- March 2015. Memo to NJDEP urging oversight of JCP&L contractors doing vegetation removal in ROWs. Letter of support to NJDEP in support of GSWA's application for a 319 grant for storm water remediation at Seaton Hackney.
- April, 2015. Memo to Planning Board noting more than double the existing impervious cover proposed for a subdivision on Rose Terrace.

## EVENTS

- Eco film: Promised Land w/ Matt Damon, May 7, Thursday, 7:30.
- Ribbon cutting at Giralda property sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission, Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

## MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:02

Carolyn Scannelli